

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) seeks written and oral comments from interested persons on the draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Report for Bluestone River. The stream was listed on the 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standards for bacteria. . The 2002 303(d) List modified the Bluestone River impairment to reflect further data, which extended the segment length and added two impairments, the General Standard for Benthics and PCBs in fish tissue.

The final public meeting to present the draft TMDL Report addressing the Benthic and Bacteria Impairments for Bluestone River will be held on **Thursday, March 18, 2004, 6:00 p.m.** at the Virginia Avenue United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall in Bluefield, VA. The Church is located at 1901 Virginia Avenue in Bluefield, Virginia. Additionally, from 3:00 p. m. to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, 2004, at the Virginia Avenue United Methodist Church, there will be an informal meeting about the Bluestone River PCB impairment.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report.

Bluestone River is located in Tazewell County and flows through Bluefield, Virginia. The impaired segment is approximately 13.2 miles long. It begins upstream at the Route 460 bridge and continues to the West Virginia /Virginia State line.

The public comment period will end on **April 18, 2004**. The draft TMDL report will be available to the public on March 18, 2004. You may request this document or it can be viewed at the DEQ website: <http://www.deq.state.va.us/tmdl/>. Questions or information requests should be addressed to Nancy T. Norton, P. E. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Nancy T. Norton, P. E., Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 1688, Abingdon, Virginia 24212-1688, telephone (276) 676-4807, fax (276) 676-4899, or e-mail ntnorton@deq.state.va.us.